

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 MC-02 TRSE-00 /071 W

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P R 141252Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9943

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5434

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO COMPROMISE BILL ON EMBARGO

1. OUR IMPRESSION OF THE TURKISH REACTION TO THE HOUSE
COMPROMISE BILL PARTIALLY LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO IS THAT:
(A) ALTHOUGH CLEARLY THE BILL IS NOT ALL THAT THE TURKS WOULD LIKE,
TURKISH REACTION IS STILL IN A PRELIMINARY STAGE PENDING A
DEFINITIVE OUTCOME IN WASHINGTON; (B) THE GOVERNMENT IS CALMLY
AND PROPERLY WITHHOLDING COMMENT; (C) THE ECEVIT-LED OPPOSITION
HAS TAKEN A CRITICAL STAND BUT HAS NOT RPT NOT GONE TO THE POINT OF
STRIDENT DENUNCIATION OR CALLS FOR DRASTIC ACTION; (D) THE STRONGEST
REACTION SO FAR HAS BEEN IN PRESS COMMENTARIES, SUMMARIES OF
WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

2. THE OPPOSITION'S EMERGING POSITION WAS STATED BY REPUBLICAN
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PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT AT THE CLOSE OF A WEEKEND

SPEECH IN CONNECTION WITH A MAYORALTY ELECTION IN SAKARYA: "NOW OUR ALLY, THE USA, HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WITH CONGRESS TO SHIP US THE MILITARY MATERIEL FOR WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY PAID AND MAKES OUT THAT THIS IS A FAVOR...I EXPECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SEE OR PORTRAY IT THAT WAY...THE USA WILL CONTROL WHERE AND HOW THE MATERIEL WE BUY WITH CASH IS USED...IN OTHER WORDS, TURKEY WILL BE PUT UNDER TRUSTEESHIP WITH HER OWN MONEY. IF THE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH A GAME, IT WILL FIND THE SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE NATION BEHIND IT ON THIS TOPIC. WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN REGULATE OUR FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE RELATIONS WITH THE USA BY PROTECTING THE HONOR AND WELLBEING OF BOTH SIDES. BUT TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS TURKEY MUST BOTH ASSESS PROPERLY HER GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION IN FOREIGN POLICY AND MOBILIZE ALL HER NATIONAL FORCES...A GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED WITH THE NATION AND COHERENT WITHIN ITSELF IS NEEDED." HOWEVER, THIS PORTION OF ECEVIT'S SPEECH RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN THE PRESS, AND APPARENTLY ECEVIT DID NOT INTEND IT TO BE A MAJOR ATTACK. (THE RPP CANDIDATE LOST THE ELECTION.)

3. THE GOVERNMENT IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE ARMED FORCES' INTEREST IN RESTORING THE FLOW OF MATERIEL; AND WE BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION THAT WOULD IMPEDE SUCH RESTORATION. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT, IN FRAMING ITS OWN REACTION TO THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO TAKE THE OPPOSITION'S ATTITUDE AND OTHER DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT. THE FRASER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8454, ONCE IT IS PUBLICIZED HERE, NO DOUBT WILL PUT THE GOVERNMENT IN A MORE DIFFICULT POSITION. IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE, THE MORE CONDITIONAL AND RESTRICTIVE THE LEGISLATION IS MADE, THE MORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY WILL BE EXPOSED TO RISK AS A GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION ISSUE.

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